



February 12, 2020

Dear Interested Party;

The Montana Water Quality Act and the Federal Clean Water Act require that the State of Montana review and, as appropriate, adopt new or revised water quality standards at least every three years. Federal regulations require that the Department open water quality standards for a public comment period of 60 days, as well as hold a public hearing. On February 12, 2020 Montana will open water quality standards for public comment ending on April 20, 2020. Furthermore, on April 6, 2020, the Board of Environmental Review (Board) will hold a public hearing at 9:30 am in Room 111 of the Metcalf Building at 1520 E 6th Avenue, Helena, Montana.

The purpose of the public comment period and hearing is for the Board to solicit comments from all interested persons regarding potential revision to any aspect of Montana's water quality standards. Comments should identify the water quality standard at issue, any suggested revision to the standard, and the basis for the suggested revision, including technical information.

Montana's water quality standards include the Administrative Rules of Montana Title 17, Chapter 30, subchapters 5 (mixing zones), 6 (water quality standards), 7 (nondegradation), and 10 (groundwater protection), and Department Circulars DEQ-7 and DEQ-12A and -12B.

You are invited to submit data, views, or arguments concerning water quality standards either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to: William Howard George, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana, 59620-0901; telephone (406) 444-6491; or email: William.George@mt.gov; no later than 5:00 pm on April 20, 2020.

The Board will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in this hearing or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the Department of Environmental Quality no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2020, to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Sandy Scherer, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901; telephone (406) 444-2630; fax (406) 444-6836; or e-mail sscherer@mt.gov.

At some point in the past you requested that the Department of Environmental Quality notify you regarding any proposed changes to rules related to water quality. This letter is in response to that request. If you wish not to receive hard copies of water quality standards mailings in the future, or would like to receive notification by E-mail instead, your request must be made in writing. Please submit your request to William Howard George using one of the contact methods listed above.

We thank you for your interest in Montana's water quality standards.

Sincerely,

Myla Kelly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "myla kelly", is written over the printed name.

Water Quality Standards Section Supervisor